

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0069] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0069] As another approach to overcome premature resin melt, referring to FIGS. 8 and 9 in particular, embodiments can include a lead-in gap ~~300~~400 that accepts prematurely melted resin on the screws. Where the resin might ordinarily accumulate, cool, and form lumps, the lead-in gap smoothes and eventually squeezes the excess material to the sides of the screws to await take-up. In embodiments, the lead-in gap ~~300~~400 is located near the point at which resin enters the conveyor. While the lead-in gap could be used in conjunction with the insert disclosed above, the combination is not required.

Please replace paragraph [0070] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0070] An advantageous variation of the lead-in gap ~~300~~400 can be variable in size and shape. For example, the portion of the inner surface of the housing could be movable to allow the gap ~~300~~400 to grow or shrink as required for particular rates of flow of base resin into the conveyor. A more simple approach could include a slidable section of the housing wall that would slide longitudinally to expose more or less of the lead-in gap ~~300~~400 as required.